

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 3, March 2010

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 73 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937



CALENDAR



March 5, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Menlo Park Rec Ctr
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

March 17, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Palo Alto Red Cross
400 Mitchell Lane

March 17, **DEADLINE** for April PAARAgraphs submission
Send items for publication to Robin Yee, K16YTA,
at K16YTA@ARRL.net, or Paul Petrich, K5QXY,
at paaraseditor@gmail.com

Support the Red Cross— They support us!

As a thank you to the Bay Area Chapter of the Red Cross, who gifted PAARA with a fabulous Tower Trailer, won't you please consider making a donation to the Red Cross? Ron Chester has agreed to match the first \$150 donated with his own check of \$100. Checks should be made out to "American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter." In the memo line write *For: Response Communications*.

Give the check to a club officer at the meeting or mail to Aaron Litwin, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, 85 2nd St. 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Send a note to Ron regarding your donation and we will see what happens. Thanks one and all!! de, Gerry N6NY

President's Corner

February is fading quickly and giving way to early spring, and with the change in weather that will soon be here, we should see better propagation and more DX stations on the air.



As I write this column, it is the weekend before the ARRL International DX Contest, CW. This, along with the CQ World Wide DX Contest, is one of my favorites. You can find the contest rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/2010/10winds.htm> on the ARRL website. While you are almost certain to read this after the CW version of the contest, the Phone version is coming up on March 5-7, starting in the late afternoon (0000 UTC), just before the next PAARA general meeting. This is an HF, "all band" contest, with an easy exchange for us of a signal report followed by your state. The DX station sends their signal report and power in Watts. I always think of this as the "59-kilowatt"

(Continued on page 21) Pres Corner



Welcome New PAARA Members!

Lee Carlton, K6BEPQ, San Jose
Harry Cline, AT4ZI, Sunnyvale
Daniel Curtis, N6WVN, Newark
Rita Derbas, K1SSSQ, Newark
Ralph Hunt, A66Q, Mountain View
Doyle Kistler, K6BYUN, Gilroy
David Ranch, K1AZHD, Santa Clara
Steve Stearns, K6OIK, Mountain View



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Mendocino Park, CA 94026

03/02/2011

President Kristin McIntire, MSW 530.103.4941

Trunk muscle activity

Vice President	Donna Taylor, R-PA	850.367.6200
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dictator@wisc.edu

Secretary.....Rick Melrose KSRDM 401-341-9537

6/04/2004 11:00 AM

...Ron Cheaker, who

[illegible]

FAARAgraphs—March 2010

Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

(Continued from page 31)

contest, as that's what you hear most often when you find an interesting DX station. Remember that you can only work DX in this contest (no W/VE). Even if you are new to contesting, I hope you'll take this opportunity to give it a try and hand out a few points. I think you'll find it fun and interesting. You might even get a few new countries in the log.

Our FAARA general meeting for February featured Denise Stoops, K5BBR, who gave a great talk about her experiences aboard the museum ship SS Lane Victory in Los Angeles. Along with the standard tour and activities aboard ship, she also is licensed to operate the commercial radio and so she took a turn at the RCA console, the bug, and the mic. For those who are unfamiliar with Denise, known as DA on the air, she was the legendary first female Morse operator at KPH in Bolinas, CA. You can also find her on the museum ship SS Red Oak Victory in Richmond and at KPH. As many of you may recall, there was a wonderful FAARA sponsored tour of the KPH receiving and transmitting sites that was arranged by Elaine, W4SLJE, a few years ago.

Field Day is always an exciting time for hams around the Bay Area, and especially at FAARA. Again this year, we plan to have a KB (that's Kick Butt, if you are new to the hobby) FD operation. Doug, KGBLWE, is already working hard on getting the antennas ready and making plans. As we approach June, you will hear more and more details and you can be sure that we will be asking for your help. I hope that we can count on your support. FAARA is one of the top Field Day scoring clubs in the nation each year, and we want to be number one this year. With improving propagation and a refined operation, I think we'll do better than ever. Personally, I'm looking forward to my usual all night shift on 40m CW.

As an avid follower of propagation and solar activity, I was pleased to learn about a new iPhone app this week called 3D Sun. Pink, K7LA, mentioned it on the Sun Talk Net e-mail list. This application was written by a team of programmers led by Dr. Tony Phillips to display NASA STEREO satellite data, pictures, and movies. It features a 3D rendering of the sun that can be rotated so that the entire solar surface that is visible to the STEREO satellites can be viewed as if you were viewing it from space in various ultra violet wavelengths. It appears to be a very useful tool for propagation analysis. You can find it in the iTunes Store for free by searching for "3D Sun."

I hope you all get a chance to get on the radio and enjoy all that Amateur Radio has to offer. Our hobby is, I believe, unique in the breadth and depth of exploration possible across a wide spectrum (pun intended) of human endeavor. I look forward to hearing you on the air.

73 DE K6H/X,

Board Meeting Minutes

3/17/10

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 17th of February 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6H/X (Pres), Doug Taler KGBLWE (VP), Rick Makoon K6ROH (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Larry Reberchik N8CCH (Dir), Byron Beck KGBUOB (Dir), Mark Cohen K8EF (Dir) by phone, Joel Winick K6SW (former Pres), Garry Tucker N6NV (Property Mgr.), Robin Yee K6YTA (Editor), Vic Black AB6SO (Membership), and Michael Pechner N6WRD Makor Farn representatives. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6ROH reports that the minutes of the 28th of January Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

President's Report: Kristen K6H/X reported that the presentation by Denise Stoops at the February 8th general meeting was very well received. Webmaster Mark Cohen K8EF was unable to attend the Board Meeting in person but during the course of the meeting Kristen was able to raise him by phone regarding progress toward solutions for situations needing attention on our FAARA website.

Vice President's Report: Doug KGBLWE reported on speakers scheduled for the next few FAARA meetings. The 3rd of March general meeting will feature an analysis by Rick Huleman N5DQ of our 2009 Field Day performance and proposals for strategies for this year's event. Along with Larry N8CCH, Doug spoke about plans to begin work this weekend, Sunday, February 21st, at his shop on the projects to upgrade for the clubs KT-34 beam and to repack and refurbish our C35 beam and other antennas.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that ref. re proceeds and membership renewals are doing well and the club membership is reminded that it's time to renew for 2010.

The board discussed wide ranging planning for Field Day

(Continued on page 34)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the FAARA Board

Wally Porter K6URO Dec 2008

Silver Smith, K6P5 Dec 2007

(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 13)

in some detail, including setting up our GOTA station, antenna installations and various other aspects, with the realization that with the amount of planning required, we can't begin too soon.

Mike NEBD spoke with the board about opportunities for the club, and ham radio in general, at the Maker Faire coming up in May at the San Mateo County Expo Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Need your License? Ready to Upgrade?

Announcing Ham testing by the Tri-City VE Group

Where: Hurricane Electric
48233 Warm Springs Blvd
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April 15 - Thursday 6:30 p.m.
May 8 - Saturday 9:00 a.m.

For more information, contact
Rita, K1G55Q@arrl.net, (510) 703-7090
or

Bernhard, AE6YN@arrl.net, (510) 364-0611
or visit

www.abara.org

Hope to see you soon!

Congratulations to the winners of the February 2010 Raffle



- 1st Prize: Bob Shannon / K8TGR / IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT
- 2nd Prize: Bernhardt Muller / AE6YN / Yaesu FT-2800M / 2m / 65W / Mobile
- 3rd Prize: Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Dellran Battery Tender
- 4th Prize: Phil Stripling / KG8ILU / Rotary Tool w/35-Pc. Accessory Kit
- 5th Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Power Pole Connectors
- 6th Prize: Steve Stearns / K6DJK / Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover
- 7th Prize: Rob Krensky / K18GGL / Colby Stereo Ear Buds
- 8th Prize: Tony Kooij / W6AWK / Icom Band Plan / Yaesu World DX Map

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
of PAARA's exciting monthly raffle!**

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2009! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now and experience fun 2010 events with the "friendliest club around."

PAARA Exemplary Service Award

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005

Rice Family 2006

Jim K6AK, Lisa K6KQS, Kyle K6M5K

Wally Porter, K6URO 2007

Vic Black, AB65O 2008

?? - 2009



PAARAgaphs—March 2010
 Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—*Since 1937*

PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

March Raffle Prizes

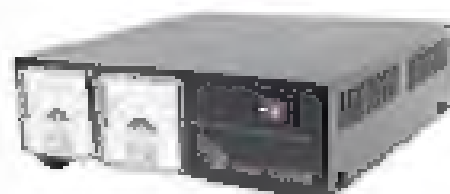


FIRST PRIZE: Icom IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT

- Rugged / Water Resistant / 750mW of Loud Audio
- NiMH / 1400mAh Battery Pack / 13 Hours Operating Time
- Drop-In Charging Base
- PC Programmable with Optional CS-V80
- WX Channel and Weather Alert Function (USA Version Only)
- Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (Optional)

SECOND PRIZE: Samlex 30 Amp Switching DC Power Supply

- 30 amps continuous / 35 amps peak
- Voltage and Current Meters
- 13.8 VDC / Adjustable 11.5 V to 15.5 V with Internal Potentiometer
- 85% Peak Efficiency
- Dimensions: 8.4" L x 7.1" W x 2.4" H
- Weight 3.4 lbs



THIRD PRIZE: Two Cobra FRS / GMRS Radios with Batteries and Charger

FOURTH PRIZE: Kill A Watt / AC Electricity Usage Monitor

FIFTH PRIZE: Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover / Third Edition

SIXTH PRIZE: 9 LED Flashlight

SEVENTH PRIZE: Yaesu Log Book

EIGHTH PRIZE: Icom Band Plan / Yaesu World DX Map

Since February 2003, 169 Radios, including THREE Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Dan, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued support!
K6AK Jim

Calling CQ...

Ham Radio Operators Talk Around The World

By **BOB GOLDER**
WA3CFN

(Reprinted from THE POST-JOURNAL, Saturday, February 24, 1979)



With equipment like this, a "ham" is in business

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Golder has been a licensed radio amateur since 1961. He is active in the Southern Tier Amateur Radio Klub, Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Services (RACES) and in VHF communications, and has an advanced class license. He is a resident of Killbuck.

The CB boom is fading. With well over 12,000,000 sets in use, the market has slowed considerably. The almost half a million applications per month to the Federal Communications Commission of two years ago has dwindled down to a few thousand per month at the end of 1978. Hundreds of thousands of CB operators are disillusioned with the operating capability of their equipment.

Because of the sunspot-caused "skip" conditions, and the many stations all trying to use the same channels at the same time, operating sometimes becomes impossible. Add to that the band splatter from powerful and illegal stations jamming the air and it is no wonder some of the operators are disappointed in their efforts to use the radio.

However, amateur radio operators, are now enjoying a boom of their own, as CB operators are discovering the many benefits of amateur radio. More than 60,900 a month are now taking the test to become licensed amateur radio operators.

"Ham," or amateur radio operator, is a title proudly worn by more than 600,000 people all over the world. People from 7 to 70, from all walks of life, spanning all ethnic, language and income barriers, "hams" talk to each other on various bands or frequencies daily. In Chautauque and Cattaraugus counties, there are perhaps 1,000 ham operators.

Using regular transmissions, or Morse Code, with liberal doses of "home brew" amateur TV, and radioteletype, helped at times by amateur reporters, and "ham" satellites that are at this moment circling the earth, they communicate every minute of every day. The frequencies that they use are allocated by international radio law, and strictly governed by the

Federal Communications Commission in the United States.

The conversations range from exchanging signal reports with a station in Brazil, to a station in the Union of South Africa giving a New Yorker a special recipe for pastries; and from a balloon crossing the Atlantic on an historic flight needing weather reports, to a doctor in Ecuador requiring a special medicine for a patient.

Recently a Salamanca woman, worried because she had not heard from her daughter, asked a local ham to contact the young woman in Guam. The operator obliged and a radiogram was sent to the daughter, who then wrote to her mother. Now the mother is planning to take a novice radio course that is being organized.

Hams and their forerunners gave the world radio as we know it today. Marconi, himself, was one of the first amateur radio experimenters.

The television that we watch the Sunday football games on was at one time an amateur radio experiment, and TV signals were being sent across the Atlantic while Americans were listening to "Stella Dallas, Backstage Wife" on the radio.

Radar for our fighting forces in World War II was first played with by amateurs in the early 40s. Those same hams later served as radio operators, and communication specialists for Uncle Sam. In fact, many of the electronic goodies that we use daily were first brought into the world by those "tinkering hams."

What exactly do they do?

On almost any day, you might hear something like this: A U.S. Navy vessel in the Indian Ocean that has a ham on board (he's usually the regular radio operator as well) calls for a station near Woonsocket, Rhode Island. After two or three calls, he is answered by WA1XYZ in Slatersville, only seven miles away. "Can you run a patch for us?" asks the Navy, explaining that a sailor who is on board would like to speak to his father, who is very ill. "Sure thing," replies the New Englander, "give me the number, and a second or two." Within seconds, the sailor is talking to his dad in a hospital in Rhode Island, halfway around the world, ... courtesy of ham radio, and free of any charge.

We change frequency bands, and a little later we listen to OSCAR 7, the seventh amateur radio satellite as it comes into acquisition of signal (AOS) just over the horizon.

A doctor in Kenya, South Africa, is treating a little boy from a local village who is very ill, and without modern medical equipment to help, the doctor needs consultation with a specialist.

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Celebrating 75 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

A ham in Buffalo calls Buffalo Children's Hospital, and in seconds a specialist in that hospital has a strip of electrocardiogram and sends his advice. The boy is alive and well today, thanks to OSCAR (Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) and a ham in Buffalo.

Late afternoon finds the ham in a central Ohio city pressed into service during a flash flood. Using hand-held two-meter VHF transceivers (walkie-talkies), and a local repeater, they give precise and interference-free communications. The Red Cross and the Civil Defense now know the amateur very well.

Early evening and conditions change again. So, we do the same, and using again another band of frequencies and a long wire type of antenna, we find a ham in England sitting in front of a home-built wooden console. Using a television camera he has built himself, he is kidding with a ham in California who has stellar amateur TV gear. They joke, and tell each other how good they look, and before they are through, exchange Christmas cards printed by radioteletype equipment discarded years before by Western Union as unusable.

Sound far fetched? Well, it does happen, to varying degrees, every day of the year.

In western New York also, amateur radios are ready to help in emergencies. In this area, a nightly training exercise involving 100-150 operators is held to enable them to react more efficiently in case of flood, tornado, snow emergency or power cutoff. The exercise involves an area embracing Chautauqua County, Buffalo, Olean, Limestone, and Bradford, Columbus, and Erie PA.

Recently area operators took part in a simulated emergency test. This is run annually and involves amateurs throughout the U.S. who communicate by UHF. Using the same procedures as are followed nightly, Wanda Gustafson, Chautauqua County civil defense director, was able to get the exact water level in Russell, PA, in less than 25 minutes. The message was carried through Fredonia, to Salamanca and then to the monitor at Russell who went out and noted the water level.

Amateur radio operators include a U.S. Senator from Arizona, TV personalities, baseball's Joe Rudi, and maybe your local grocer. They all have the same basic goal... to communicate... and communicate they do.

They use equipment that ranges in price from a few dollars to many hundreds, and from converted World War II tank radios to completely homemade "breadboard" transmitters, built in the basements of the world. Regardless of the money spent, they put up homemade wire antennas and talk to the world.

Ham radio has been blessed of late with people who have gotten their start in radio via CB, or Citizen's Band Radio. Some of these people have gotten the desire to talk a little farther, to be able to change and modify, to have a little more room to flex their curiosity. They have been welcomed with open arms, and open hands by the amateur fraternity.

CB or Citizen's Band Radio is a restricted, short

range service. It is limited in the number of channels, the time and distance the operator can use, and the age of the operator.

On the other hand, amateur radio operators are allowed up to 1,000 watts of power (compared to the five watts allowed on CB), have no time, age, or distance limitations, and they are actually encouraged to modify the equipment they use.

Many elementary school students have passed their novice license tests, and each month, hundreds more join the ever-growing ranks of amateur radio operators. Neither the code requirement, nor the theory is a substantial hurdle. Almost anyone interested in becoming a ham can obtain a license with a few weeks of study.

Most hams start with the novice class of license, and from that point upward it's only a matter of what each person desires to do.

One of the better ways to obtain more information, and a complete study guide that fully explains the privileges, requirements and theory is the publication, "Tune In The World." It should be available at your local electronics store.

Or, you may want to contact a local amateur radio club, or maybe you, or a member of your family, knows of an amateur radio operator near you.

Amateur radio clubs in the area are:

The Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association, 208 Shadydale Ave., Lakewood

The Northern Chautauqua Amateur Radio Club, Box 455, Dunkirk

Southern Tier Amateur Radio Klub (STARK), Box 262, Killbuck

This article was first published in the Saturday edition of THE POST-JOURNAL on February 14, 1979. Thanks to Bob WA2CFN for sharing it with us!



James Furrey
Sales Manager

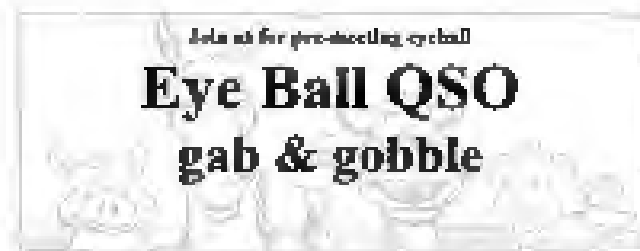
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YOUR AD HERE
See the next
page for details



Directions to PAARA meeting:
<http://paara.org/meetings/>



Eye Ball QSO
gab & gobble

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.

5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

across from Kepler's Book Store
on El Camino Real
Walking distance from Caltrain!

Where's your badge?

If you ordered a badge but
have not yet picked it up,
or if you would like to
order a badge, see
Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session every Monday evening
8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater.

Control operators:

Week	Operator
1 st	Doug Teter KG6LWE
2 nd	Paul Potach K16QXV
3 rd	Peter Sheerin K6WEB
4 th	Duba Kerns K16DAR
5 th	Mike Bray N6MER

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the
Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the
145.230 – 600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year,
which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
\$6 for each additional family member (no activation).

Make payment in the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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March 6th,
2010

8AM to
9PM

at the SLAC
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Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

Text: MSWORD, RTF, or TEXT
Photos: JPEG or TIFF master images

Missing PAARAgaphs, too many copies, wrong name or
call on label? Contact Database Manager
Rick Melrose K6RDM, 1-800-725-1895, rkdms@arri.net

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs uses paid advertisements to raise money, when possible, to support its work. For all members in good standing. All ad rates listed are per line.

1. Two-line-only ads by wireless carriers for ham radio clubs and more. No cost by wireless carriers but additional cost in SLAC per business card per month.

2. For PAARAgaphs website members: PAARAgaphs club only, PAARAgaphs club only, PAARAgaphs club only, PAARAgaphs club only.

3. These ads may be subject to review and subject to the publisher's discretion. If a given ad is found to be in violation of the general membership rules, consideration must be in addition to any existing membership rules.

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5. All ads payable in advance by the year with "business-only" copy or "business-only" copy. All payments and copy to Rich Chester, W6AZ.

PAARAgraphs — March 2010

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 PAARAgraphs Newsletter
 P.O. Box 911
 Menlo Park, California 94026

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